

8th Grade Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment

Choose one of the two books to read below, then complete the assignment that follows.

This assignment is **DUE COMPLETED** on the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** to your Pre-AP ELA 8 teacher for a major/test grade.

Option 1 - Seeing Red by Kathryn Erskine

National Book Award winner Kathryn Erskine delivers a powerful story of family, friendship, and race relations in the South.

Life will never be the same for Red Porter. He's a kid growing up around black car grease, white fence paint, and the backward attitudes of the folks who live in his hometown, Stony Gap, Virginia. Red's daddy, his idol, has just died, leaving Red and Mama with some hard decisions and a whole lot of doubt. Should they sell the Porter family business, a gas station, repair shop, and convenience store rolled into one, where the slogan -- "Porter's: We Fix it Right!" -- has been shouting the family's pride for as long as anyone can remember? With Daddy gone, everything's different. Through his friendship with Thomas, Beau, and Miss Georgia, Red starts to see there's a lot more than car motors and rusty fenders that need fixing in his world. When Red discovers the injustices that have been happening in Stony Gap since before he was born, he's faced with unsettling questions about his family's legacy.

Option 2 - The Giver by Lois Lowry

This haunting story centers on Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he's given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

8th Grade Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment: Reader's Response

What is a Reader's Response?

It is a single-page response to your reading; it connects the ideas in the book to your thoughts in a creative manner. You will create your Reader's Response so your audience will understand the big ideas, themes, or connections within the book you read.

The Reader's Response assignment pertains only to the required summer reading assignment.

What to do:

- Your Reader's Response needs to be on a 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of white copy paper. A multi-media/digital Reader's Response may be created as long as the content requirements (below) are met.
- The writing/font must be legible.
- The Reader's Response should be visually appealing and organized.
 - Write the ***title of the book***, correctly punctuated, along with the author's name somewhere on the page.
 - Select ***three interesting and important passages or sentences from the book***. Write them on the page with quotation marks around them. Include the page where

the quote was found. If it is dialogue from a character, include the character's name after the quote. **Write these in one color.**

- Write **three personal statements about what you have read** - not simple opinions about the content of the material (for example: it was funny or it was boring), but meaningful statements about what you have read. (For example: I could relate to main character feeling confused, because I felt the same way when I moved to a new school.) **Write these in a second color.**
- Write **three meaningful questions about the book**. (For example: What does it mean when Carl refuses Anthony's friendship?) **Write these in a third color.**
- **Answer your three questions with complete sentences with evidence from text to support your answer**. (For example: Carl refuses Anthony's friendship because he wants to be independent.) **Write these in a fourth color.**
- **Draw or create three images that represent themes, characters, conflict, or setting** in the book you are reading - these **must have strong connections** to the text.
- Include a **key or legend** for the the Reader's Response indicating **what each color represents** and explain **what your pictures symbolize**.

Helpful hints:

- Your response should provide an analysis of the book (your thoughts, ideas, feelings, and connections) —NOT just a summary.
- Use paper without lines to allow your work to stand out.
- Use the entire page; fill it with rich language and images that are meaningful and connected.
- Either hand-write or computer generate your Reader's Response, but be consistent.
- Make sure your Reader's Response creates a dominant impression, feeling or thought about what you read that is evident to the audience.
- Make your work **easy to read, polished**, and representative of **your best effort**.

Grading Rubric for Reader's Response

Criteria	Basic (1-4 points)	Sufficient (5-8 points)	Accomplished (9-12 points)
Three selected passages or sentences from the text	Missing, incomplete, or incorrectly cited	Quotations are complete and often insignificant	Quotations are complete and significant
Three personal statements	Missing, incomplete, or contains summary of the book	Personal statements are complete, but superficial	Personal statements are insightful and strongly connected to the book
Three questions	Missing, incomplete	Questions are complete, but superficial	Questions are meaningful and show depth of thought
Three answers	Missing, incomplete, not matched to questions, incomplete sentences	Answers are complete, but are not all matched well to the questions and/or are superficial	Answers are complete, meaningful, and show a depth of thought
Three images	Images are missing, partially missing	Images are complete but do not represent the book well	Images are complete, represent the book well, and look nice
Color codes & key (legend)	Color coding and/or key are missing	Color coding and key are complete but with some minor inaccuracies	Color coding and key are complete and accurate
Usage/mechanics	Spelling, punctuation, and/or other usage errors throughout	Mostly correct with some errors in spelling, punctuation, and/or other usage issues	Very few, if any, errors in spelling, punctuation, and/or other usage issues
Overall impression/aesthetics	One-pager looks messy, with no evidence of prior planning or thought	One-pager looks moderately neat and well planned	One-pager is aesthetically pleasing, neat, well-organized, with evidence of prior planning or thought

Creativity/Style can be up to 4 additional points

Total Score: _____/100